

therefore not worth so much per pound, are still juicy, with a considerable proportion of lean to fat.

Thus the breed most popular in one district is very far from being so in another, and the wider we take our survey the more perfectly shall we be convinced of the truth of this. In Devon and Cornwall we find long-wooled sheep predominating, and, in fact, no others worthy of the name, either Devon long-wools, or Leicesters, or South Hams, or Dartmoors, and if an inquiry be made on the point, it will be found that no Down variety suits the country. The fields are either too much bounded by woodlands and high fences, and consequently not breezy enough for the Downs, or there is something in the character of the soil better suited for native breeds than for those of other districts. (1) There is a fact published that the late Col. Luttrell tried an experiment in West Somerset on some of the rich low-lying moorlands not far distant from Bridgwater, and he found that he could fatten three sheep of the Devon long-wooled breed before he could make a Southdown fat. He attributed it entirely to the hot, close atmospheric influences, the Southdowns requiring naturally more air, and probably in a colder temperature.

In Scotland and the north of England, they have also a large preponderance of long-wool sheep, the Border-Leicesters or the Cheviots, and in Yorkshire the purer Leicesters or the Wensleydale variety. In the fens and marsh districts of Lincolnshire, the more wealthy sheep of the Lincoln breed suit the locality more than any other, and are consequently the most popular. The eastern counties go in for the Down breeds most, but there are some long wools in the richest and most lowland districts, Norfolk Cotwolds in some and Oxford Downs in others, while for grazing purposes the last-mentioned breed has extended itself into Scotland. In fact, in all districts where that useful and preëminently wealthy cross of a Leicester, Cotswold or Lincoln ram on Down ewes has been found to answer, Oxford Downs will be sure to do so. The breed originally was derived from a Cotswold-Hampshire cross, its present fixity of type having been derived by continuous high selections carried on in a lengthy succession of years.

This is especially worthy of a deep and attentive consideration, now that the mutton of most varieties of English long-wool sheep is only slightly more valuable than New Zealand mutton in London shops and those of many provincial towns. Many of the districts which have in the past been deemed best for long-wooled sheep, would no doubt be equally well adapted for Oxford-Downs. These supplanted Cotswolds very profitably for farmers in the counties of Gloucester, Oxford, Bucks and Berks, and Major Staveley finds that they thrive just as well on his large hill farm in the Yorkshire Wold district as the Leicester and Long-wool varieties most generally kept there. The mutton of the latter does not command anything like so high a price as that of the Oxford-Down; therefore Major Staveley is increasing his flock of the latter variety.

THE SOUTHDOWN OUTLOOK.

The belief is that sheep breeding in this country will, to a large extent, be changed from a wool to a mutton producing industry. By this change

(1) Besides, the wool of the Down-breeds becomes quite altered in character.—*Ed.*

Southdown breeders have reason to expect that their sheep will be in demand, and they will have an opportunity that is not often presented for the advancement of their interests. But they must not expect that the advantages the situation presents will be of large benefit to them unless they use energetic efforts in making known the superiority of their sheep. The claims of other breeds will be forcibly and persistently presented by wide-awake, progressive breeders, so that other sheep may take the place that Southdowns should fill, if Southdown breeders fail to forward their interests by making it known in every possible manner, and to all parts of the country, that the Southdown is the best sheep for the Western breeder of large flocks, as well as for the farmer keeping a small number, because:

They are hardy, will flock in large numbers, require little care will thrive on less feed and therefore the best of any sheep for arid and grainless regions.

They are healthy, less liable to diseases than other breeds, seldom have foot rot or scab; are more prolific than other breeds, frequently bringing twins and often triplets, are good mothers, and the lambs take care of themselves at an early age, are early maturers, comparing in weight at from 6 to 10 months with the larger breeds, and always heavier in proportion to size than other sheep. (1)

They are the best for mutton; the meat is the best graded with fat and lean, is the juiciest and best flavored, will market more meat to the acre, and to produce its meat costs less than for any other sheep or domestic animal.

Their wool is next to the Merino in fineness and brings a better price than that of any other breed.

They are of all sheep the most beautiful in form, majestic in carriage, and are an adornment as well as the most useful and profitable of all domestic farm animals.

They have been bred in purity longer, and are certain in impressing their good qualities on other breeds, all attempts by crossing with other breeds to improve their good qualities have proved failures—they have been for many years, and remain the recognized head of the mutton breeds.

Comparing favorably with the Merinos in fineness of wool, (2), in ability to exist with little care and in large flocks in the grainless parts of our country, and superior to them in mutton qualities as well as in less liability to the diseases that have been so hurtful to the wool growing industry, the Southdown is in every respect the best, is the natural cross for changing the Merino from wool to mutton and yet retaining the highest priced wool.—*En.*

JOHN G. SPRINGER.

The Sheep Breeder ventures to predict: It may be safely assumed that the shrinkage in the lamb product of the country will be fully 33 1-3 per cent below the product of 1893. This remarkably large shrinkage, resulting from the merciless slaughter of thousands of breeding flocks, the failure to breed as many more flocks, and the most criminal indifference of many shepherds to the proper winter care of their sheep, will go far toward an early restoration of the high prices of sheep and generally prosperous condition of the industry in 1890-91 and '92. There will be a good-sized army

(1) They are charming sheep, but by no means so early maturing as the Hampshires. *Ed.*

(2) Stuff.—*Ed.*

of sick men before the close of the current year—the men who have parted company with the "golden hoof" for a song.—*Ex.*

Swine.

THE BOAR.

C. J. Stockey, a well known pig breeder, in a paper read before the National Swine Breeders' Association, says:—"The hog-breeder who does not provide some Swedes, mangels or other roots for winter and early spring does not know what he has missed in the way of conditioning his hogs. Feed the boar in such a way that he will keep in the best growing condition—thriving all the time, but not in show-ring form, as the breeders exhibit him at fairs. To get the best results and strongest pigs he should be active and vigorous. It is a fact that cannot be denied that most of our best boar pigs are ruined by overwork when they are young. Some breeders and farmers will pay a good price for a boar, take him home and turn him out with a bunch of all ages, there to fret, worry and work, and in all probability go down to nothing. This should not be. Where is the profit in handling—or not handling—the boar in such a manner? At eight months a pig can do some service, if properly handled, and not hurt him. One good service to a sow is all sufficient and better than more. After a boar is a year old he can be used liberally, if handled right, and the best results may be confidently expected. I am convinced that the more we use old boars the better, stronger and healthier our pig crop will be. It surely has been a mistake with farmers and hog men in the West of late years in not keeping more aged boars and sows to breed from."

While in Ottawa, Mr. McKeller of the Central Farmers' Institute spent some time at the Experimental Farm. You will find from the reports of that farm very useful and interesting information on hog raising. In order to get the hog that packers ask for we must have a strain of the Yorkshire or Tamworth with the Berkshire. Now comes the question, how are we going to do it? There is room in this Province for perhaps a dozen breeders of thoroughbred hogs so that farmers could go and buy thoroughbreds whenever they wanted them, and could keep a thoroughbred sow, killing off the progeny every year when fattened. The older the mother and sire are the better. Professor Robertson is very strong on this point, and holds that the old law of the survival of the fittest is being overthrown by the too common practice of using young immature sires. If you have a young boar, he gets the service that the old one would have got under natural conditions.—*N.-Y. Farmers.*

KNIGHT OF THE VALE.

Our engraving is a representation of that superb carriage stallion, Knight of the Vale, the property of Messrs. Knottel, Boissevain, Manitoba. Knight of the Vale (1799) is registered in Volume V. of the Yorkshire Coach Horse Society of Great Britain, also recorded in the American Cleveland Bay Stud Book, (999), Volume III, and No. 17 in the Horse Breeders' Lien Act of Manitoba. He was bred by Wm. Codling, Eskdale-

side, Slights, Whitby, England, afterwards passing into the hands of John White, "The Grange," Appleton, Roebuck, Bolton, Percy, Yorkshire, from whom he was purchased by his importers, Messrs. J. D. McGregor & Co., Brandon, Manitoba, subsequently being purchased by his present owners.

Before leaving England he made for himself a remarkable showyard record, winning second place at the great Yorkshire show in a strong and representative class, and third at the Royal at Warwick in 1892; these are the largest and most important shows of Cleveland Bays and Yorkshire Coach Horses held in the United Kingdom.

Since coming to this side of the "pond" his successes in the show-ring have been numerous, always heading the lists wherever shown. At the Winnipeg Industrial in 1893 he stood first in the four-year-old class, and took the sweepstakes (silver medal) for all ages; he also captured the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE" special (a very handsome marble clock and bronze ornament), given for the best carriage stallion in classes 8, 9 and 10, which included Thoroughbred Hackney and Coach Horses. He also won first and silver medal at the Boissevain Spring Stallion Show, and at the Boissevain Agricultural Societies' Show in the autumn.

Knight of the Vale is a beautiful bay in color, stand 16½ hands high, and at present weighs about 1,600 pounds. He has the clean blood-like head and neck of the Thoroughbred, well laid shoulders and grand top, good feet and large, flat, hard bone so essential to the roadster. He moves with that elegant and forceful action characteristic of the Cleveland Bay.

Foaled in 1889, sired by County King 110, first dam by Wonderful 533, third dam by Bass Rock S. B., etc., etc., of extremely fashionable breeding, combining some of the most celebrated sires in the Cleveland Bay, Yorkshire Coach and Thoroughbred history. Among them, such names from the Cleveland Bay records as Statesman, Wonderful, Cleveland Lad and Skyrocket; and from the stud book of Thoroughbreds, Necromancer, Bass Rock and Darley Arabian.

Manitoba is fortunate to have such a horse within her borders, and great credit is due to the importers and owners of such horses, and now when ordinary horses are so low in value it is the more important to put only good mares to the best available stallions.

The Knottel Bros. accommodate a limited number of approved mares during the season, with care and pasture at reasonable rates.

Farmer's Advocate.

The good horseman, says a writer, will water his horse before feeding him, especially in the morning. French breeders always water their horses before feeding, and in all the large stables of horses in this country that practice is followed. Yet many horsemen and farmers never think of the advantage and necessity of it. If the horse could talk or if man could understand him, he would ask for a drink the first thing every morning and you will be surprised how eager they are to get it whether the weather is cold or hot. It is attention to points like this, too commonly overlooked, that tends to success in every sort of farm work. A little slackness here, a little carelessness there, and a general lack of sharp supervision every day, and everywhere, is what makes the deficit at the end of the year. Don't it?

DR. HOSKINS.